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Taking the Plunge

A group of local swimmers have joined forces to create a group called Ocean Beach Cold Plunge. Pictured (left to right) are Sachi Cunningham, Hannah Lee, Olivia VanDamme, Jody MacKenzie, Elizabeth Boyarsky and Katina Papson-Rigby. "I noticed a significant difference in my anxiety and outlook," a member said. *Photo by VaNessa VerLee.*

By VaNessa VerLee

In the fall of 2022, Sachi Cunningham, Amber Cady and a few friends were enjoying a rare hot day in San Francisco's Outer Sunset District and an impromptu cold plunge in the ocean. Cunningham, renowned for her extensive work with big wave surf photography and ocean advocacy, was pleasantly surprised at how eager her non-sea-legged friends were to join – and to keep going.

Cady and Cunningham committed to plunging into the famously harrowing waters of Ocean Beach daily for 100 days, sans wetsuits. Friends who had spent little to no time in this part of the ocean committed to join and spread the word. Two weeks later, Lehua Ho'opai Sparrow

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Citywide Housing Upzoning Plan Criticized by Opponents

By Thomas K. Pendergast

Efforts by State Sen. Scott Wiener and San Francisco Mayor London Breed to rapidly increase the City's housing supply are getting roasted by advocates, activists and politicians concerned about land speculators fattening their portfolios at the expense of small business owners and residential tenants.

"We'd like to prevent the displacement of small businesses and currently affordable rental housing which are the consequences of when you do blanket upzoning and you don't have a thoughtful way to grow housing in the City," said Lori Brooke of Neighborhoods United SF, which she said is made up of 60 neighborhood associations across the City now pushing back against Breed's proposal to upzone major commercial corridors throughout the west side of the City.

Upzoning is a term used to describe changes to zoning codes made for increasing the amount of development allowed in the future on any given parcel. In the Richmond District, for example, the standard zoning for most parcels is 40-feet tall or four stories.

"We want to promote affordable workforce housing, which is the moderate, low and very-low-income units. We want to push for smart, affordable growth without overbuilding the luxury housing," Brooke said.

They also want to "reset" the housing crisis narrative.

"San Francisco faces an affordability shortage, not a housing-unit crisis," she said.

Breed's upzoning would increase the height of buildings along traffic arteries and

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Legion of Honor Features American Impressionist Mary Cassatt

By Klyde Java

On Oct. 5, the Legion of Honor opened "Mary Cassatt at Work," a new retrospective exhibit detailing the life and work of American Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt. This is the first retrospective of Cassatt's work in North America in 25 years. The Legion of Honor is the sole west coast venue. The exhibit was organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art in conjunction with the Legion of Honor and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

The opening event, "A Conversation on Mary Cassatt at Work," featured the Legion's curator of European paintings, Dr. Emily Beeny, as well as art historian Dr. Nicole Georgopulos. The presentation was held in the museum's Gunn Theater.

Born in 1844 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania to an upper-class family, Cassatt was admitted to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts at the age of 15. Known by her family for her strong aspirations to become an artist, Cassatt moved to Paris to pursue her career and lived in France until she died in 1926. Cassatt's family allowed her to have an art career on one stipulation set by her conscientious father.

"An 1878 letter from (Cassatt's) father, Robert, grants us insight into these terms as well as his daughter's feelings about them. Quote, 'I have said that the studio must at least support itself. That makes Mame (Mary) very uneasy,'" Georgopulos said.

But this financial restriction did not affect Cassatt's creativity. It enhanced it.

She often used her siblings to model for her and portrayed the mundane activities of women living in the 19th century. Domestic scenes such

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Digital Bulletin Board Proposed to Take the Place of News Racks

By John Ferrannini

San Francisco is known for technological innovation – so when newsracks began disappearing around town due to an expired contract, Julia Gitis decided to use technology to change the face of local news in the City.

Gitis, who leads the Support SF Schools team at SF Civic Tech (formerly Code for San Francisco), wants to install digital bulletin boards across the City. She recently set up a pop-up bulletin board in the West Portal neighborhood to use to gauge community interest in the project, which she calls the Community News Lab.

"This is just a prototype," she said, pointing to the TV screen functioning as a digital bulletin board, showing articles from local newspapers as well as upcoming events citywide. "I want to start with West Portal. This is where I first got the idea for the project, and I think it's a really compelling place. You can still see the bolts on the ground where the print news racks used to be."

Julia Gitis, founder of the Community News Lab, shows a digital bulletin board for local news she's working on and a posterboard of community feedback on her project in the West Portal neighborhood. *Photo by John Ferrannini.*

Clear Channel Outdoor's 20-year contract to run the news racks was not renewed by the City. Gitis said there were up to 2,000 locations in that contract.

"For the most part, these are all gone. I'm looking to do this separate from Clear Channel," she said. "Part of what motivates me is having a nonprofit alternative to Clear Channel.

The end of the print news racks causes a headache for local newspaper publishers, including Michael Yamashita of the Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco's LGBTQ newspaper, as the remaining news racks will be removed by the end of the year.

Gitis said Yamashita expressed interest in the project.

"First of all, it would give us visibility as a local newspaper partner," Yamashita said. "Eventually, if it's successful, it could mean a small revenue stream for the public and the City. But these are longterm goals."

In the meantime, Yamashita

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Ocean Plunge

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and many others joined by invitation from the founding members. Soon after, the group outgrew the confines of a group text chain and moved to a WhatsApp group.

The "OBCP: Ocean Beach Cold Plunge" group is still going strong more than two years later, now with 120 members spanning every generation. They meet at all times of the day, simply based on when a member puts out the call. Sometimes there are two women, sometimes 20. They often share photos and stories of their joyful post-plunge experiences for the rest of the group to enjoy. Occasionally, they share other events and community offerings. Sparrow, who continues to plunge nearly daily, shared how the practice connects her to her Hawaiian roots.

"It reminds me I can do hard things, especially in community," she said.

Katina Papson-Rigby, an artist and teacher from Glen Park, was initially intimidated by the Pacific Ocean but found solace in the group.

"As a full-time working mother, the stress was unbearable," Papson-Rigby said. "When I'm too exhausted to socialize, a plunge with vibrant women is the perfect medicine.

"This group has embraced me. We share stories about life, family, politics and work, and it reminds me I'm not alone in this wild moment in history."

Olivia VanDamme, a surfer who lives in the Outer Sunset, joined earlier this year. "Cold plunging has been incredible for supporting my mental health. I've connected with amazing women across generations and backgrounds."

A few members of the Ocean Beach Cold Plunge group brave the chilly Pacific Ocean waves as the setting moon heads for the western horizon. With more than 120 members, the swimmers bond over an invigorating dip. *Courtesy photo.*

Although the women are encouraged to listen to their bodies and not push beyond what feels safe, the group usually stays in for about 10 minutes. Many members emphasize the mental health benefits.

"It's like nature's Adderall," Cunningham joked.

Sarah McCarthy Grimm of the Outer Sunset began plunging alone three years ago on her own as a birthday present to herself and started plunging with the group six months ago.

"I noticed a significant difference in my anxiety and outlook," she said. "After my first plunge with the group, laughter came easily. That's only possible after 10 minutes in cold water and with this camaraderie."

Elizabeth Boyarsky comes from the Inner Sunset to plunge two to five times a week and likened the experience to "having the best cup of coffee."

"I've noticed a reduction in inflammation and a boost in my mood," she added,

Boyarsky described feeling calm, clear-headed and blissed out after every plunge.

"As an educator, (doing this practice with this precious community) is the perfect way to recalibrate and keep my energy going throughout the week."

Despite the intensity of Ocean Beach and challenges like poor water quality after storms, the group remains dedicated. They check water quality maps to find safe spots and look out for each other's safety. There is no commitment for how often to join, and no one is ever pressured to go further than they are comfortable. Part of the draw is the intensity and power of the ocean.

"Ocean Beach is one of the most dangerous breaks in the world," Cunningham said. "If you feel like you're in danger, assume you are. But I think being a woman brings a different kind of connection to our wildness and intelligence about risk. Maybe that's part of the joy – to be in that energy, to survive that energy, to know you can access that energy and not be in danger or be in danger and survive."

When it comes to safety, whether plunging with a group or solo, it is important to follow key guidelines. Lifeguard Jacqueline Racich, who works in the area with Ocean Rescue for the National Parks Department, emphasizes observation as the first step.

"Before plunging anywhere, research the beach and take time to observe conditions like currents or waves, as the ocean can change moods quickly," Racich advises.

She also stresses that Ocean Beach is not a swimming beach and advises against these plunges.

"We do not recommend swimming at Ocean Beach due to the dangerous and changing conditions," Racich said. "If people choose to plunge anyway, staying knee deep or in more shallow water is advised. Only go past your knees if you have proper gear such as swim fins or a surfboard."

Ocean Beach is notorious for its unpredictable currents, and even experienced swimmers can be caught off guard. Racich reminds swimmers at any beach to avoid fighting a rip current and instead swim parallel to the shore to escape. She also suggests using onshore landmarks to monitor your position and prevent unintended drifting. Racich recommends choosing safer spots like Baker Beach, China Beach or Aquatic Park, where the risks are lower.

And while the OBCP continues to grow, by word of mouth and personal invites, several members shared their deep love of and reverence for the power of the ocean, particularly at this break, where the open waters create such strong currents. The group looks out for one another's safety, sending messages on days with less safe conditions or poor water quality.

To learn more, go to webapps.sfpuc.org/sapps/beachesandbay.html.

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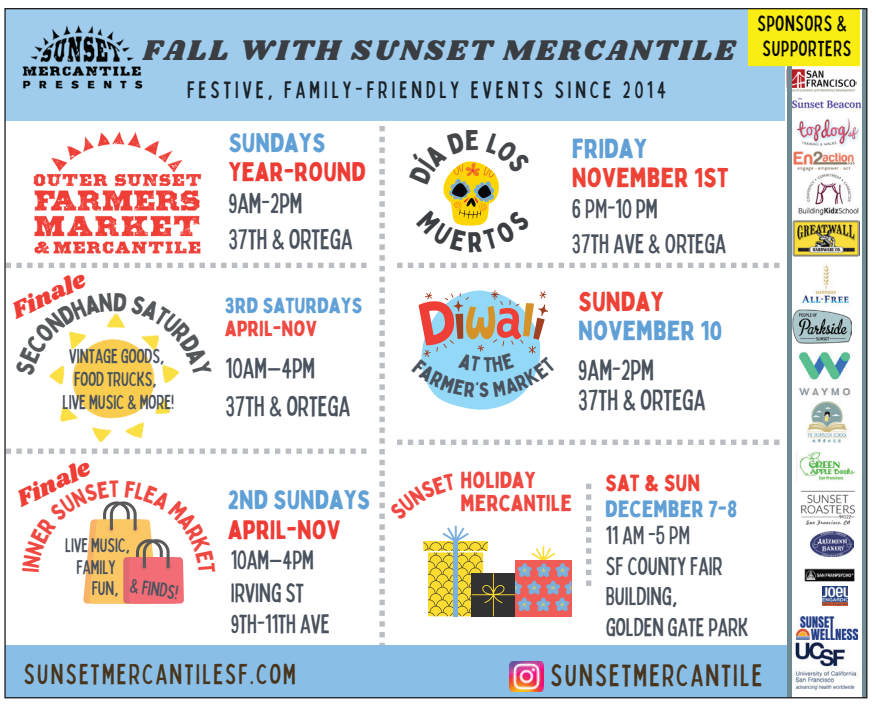

The Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club has been serving the west side for the past 75 years.

For more information about Lions Clubs International, monthly meetings and what we do for the community, call Paul at (415) 831-0461.

Lions Pride: Serving the west side for the past 75 years!

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P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116 ph: 415-706-6428
Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com
RichmondSunsetNews.com
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief: Michael Durand **Editor:** Paul Kozakiewicz
Writers: Linda Badger, Erin Bank, George Brown V, Nicholas David Noma Faingold, Jonathan Farrell, Asha Ingram, Klyde Java, Clarisse Kim, Beth Lederer, Thomas K. Pendergast, Kate Quach, Megan Robertson, VaNessa VerLee
Photographers: Tyrone Bartoli, Noma Faingold, Clarisse Kim, Thomas K. Pendergast, Kate Quach
Columnists: Supervisor Joel Engardio, Judge Quentin L. Kopp (ret.), John M. Lee, Assemblymember Phil Ting
Cartoonist: Paul Kilduff **Bookkeeper:** Sue Kozakiewicz
Interns: Tora Tran, Michael D. Wong **Social Media:** Hannah Holzer (X)
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SF Zoo Bashed by City's Animal Control and Welfare Commission Report

By Jonathan Farrell

For more than 95 years, the San Francisco Zoo has been a destination for locals and tourists alike.

But as city officials, including SF Mayor London Breed, are making plans to welcome a new Panda exhibit there, animal rights groups question the ethical integrity of zoos. Moving forward further into the 21st century, animal rights groups shed a light of serious concern on the SF Zoo's negligence and unsatisfactory conditions.

The 11-page report is from a city commission called the San Francisco Animal Control and Welfare Commission (which is entirely separate from the city department SF Animal Care and Control), according to the SFist website.

"Many of the Zoo's enclosures are extremely outdated and fail to meet the criteria outlined above from an animal welfare perspective," the report says, per KTVU. "Parts of the Zoo are best described as dilapidated."

Speaking on behalf of the animal advocacy organization In Defense of Animals, USA, (IDAUSA) Brittany Michelson said, "The vast majority of the animals held captive inside the compounds are depressed."

She is the IDAUSA's campaign specialist for captive animals and views the San Francisco Zoo as "a crumbling facility."

She and other animal rights activists consider the idea of inviting pandas to SF Zoo a dangerous endeavor. Pandas require a specialized diet and have particular health care needs.

To house and care for pandas from China at San Francisco Zoo would cost tens of millions of dollars. Currently the San Diego Zoo pays more than $1 million per year to the Chinese government just to have them as part of its local attractions.

With all the current budget issues San Francisco is facing, including its homeless population and drug addiction problems, Michelson sees the prospect as a shortsighted idea.

"Pandas require lots of attention. They eat 26 to 86 pounds of food per day," Michelson said.

Apart from the panda exhibit plan, zoos, in Michelson's viewpoint, are an outdated concept. She believes much of what SF Zoo is established upon are customs and pseudoscientific ideas of the 19th century; when scientific discovery as we know it today was in its infancy.

Initially established in 1929, SF Zoo needs to change and urgently, she said. To continue in this mode is, as Michelson and other advocates see it, not just outdated and unethical, it is cruel.

"Animals in a zoo live in perpetual captivity and lack access to all of the things that make life interesting and enjoyable," she said.

Zebras and giraffes graze at the San Francisco Zoo. A city report alleges unsatisfactory conditions and animal neglegence. Zoo officials said the Association of Zoos and Aquariums sent a team of inspectors in 2022 and the facility passed and was accredited. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

"And often, they die far earlier than they would if they lived in nature," she added. "Zoos do far more harm than good."

Activist, Justin Barker is also an opponent of SF Zoo's plan to house pandas. He keeps a blog/website "SF Zoo Watch" to raise awareness and spotlight the need for serious change.

Barker listed some of the present antiquated settings in which the animals are living.

"Many of the animals are confined to century-old concrete pits," he said.

"Gorillas wade through flooded moats during storms, koalas sit cramped indoors because their outdoor space is too small and orangutans live on sad, 10-foot by 10-foot islands surrounded by moats," Barker said. "François' langurs live in chain-link cages that are so small the animals can't properly swing around the enclosure.

"The penguins are dosed with fungicide to survive their shallow pool."

As for the primates like chimpanzees, Barker observed that their quarters are so confined, "They're within grabbing distance of visitors."

Speaking on behalf of the SF Zoo, deputy director Vitus Leung pointed out that the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

"That accreditation was based on an inspection visit and report in January 2022 by a team of three independent accreditation inspectors representing decades of combined expert zoological and veterinary experience," Leung said.

"They spent four days inspecting the entire facility, including visitor areas, animal exhibits and behind-the-scenes spaces, and interviewed more than 40 people, from board members to zoo leadership to animal keepers," Leung added.

Sarah Fedele, AZA's vice president of communications, confirmed Leung's assertions.

"Following the inspection, and prior to receiving accreditation, the San Francisco Zoo appeared at a hearing before AZA's independent and expert Accreditation Commission," Fedele said.

She reiterated what was stated in Leung's response to inquiries by the press.

"No significant animal welfare or safety issues were identified," said Dan Ashe, president and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Describing the standards of the AZA as "laxed," Michelson expressed skepticism.

"We (at IDAUSA) take the accreditation by AZA with a grain of salt. The SF Zoo has a multitude of issues that go back many years and have slipped under the radar," Michelson said.

The SF Zoo went into privatization in the 1990s after city administrators decided that it could no longer operate effectively as a municipal facility.

Under the jurisdiction of the SF Recreation and Park Department, the 100-acre zoo is managed by the nonprofit SF Zoological Society. Since 1993, when the privatization began, the Zoo has received $4.2 million annually from the City.

On Oct. 10, a committee convened representing the Joint Zoo Recreation and Park Committee Animal Welfare Advisors. They presented SF Zoo officials the following:

These criteria must exist for zoo animals to thrive:

- The enclosure should provide enough room for the animals to exhibit normal behavior.
- It should allow a space for animals to retreat from human view to an indoor area.
- It should be pleasant to the eye of the patrons and allow the patrons an opportunity to see the animals exhibiting natural behavior.
- It should provide many opportunities for behavioral enrichment.
- It should be clean and safe for the animals, animal caretakers and the public.

Real Estate

John M. Lee

Election Effect on Real Estate

I am writing this in late October as we look to see what the November election will bring us. The presidential race has been brutal and currently in a statistical tie as far as the polls show.

It is too bad the results will depend on only a few swing states. Whatever the outcome is this November, let's look at how presidential elections affect real estate and what we can expect in the real estate market.

I have commented many times in this column that incumbent presidents will do all they can to insure a strong economy during election years, thus helping their re-election back into the office. If termed out or not running again themselves, they can use a strong economy to try to elect someone else from their own political party.

President Joe Biden's actions the past couple of years illustrate this point well. Our economy has rebounded from the recession of the pandemic. Inflation finally has come down and interest rates are decreasing. The stock markets have been hitting all-time highs this year. Unemployment is down and the economy is doing better. It seems like Biden has done all he can to make sure the economy is firing on all cylinders heading into this year's election – initially for him but now for Vice President Kamala Harris.

But specifically, how do the presidential election and fiscal and monetary policies affect our housing market? I went to the archives and researched the historical returns of the Dow Jones Industrial average (DJIA) and real estate appreciation in California and San Francisco. The data are presented in the attached chart. I used DJIA and California single-family home data from 1968 to the present. I was only able to find appreciation numbers for San Francisco from 1982 to the present.

Nevertheless, it gives us a correlation on how well the economy and our real estate market performs with respect to the presidential cycle.

Presidents serve four-year terms, and our assumption is they would really want the economy to be performing well going into election years. Remember the phrase Clinton made famous running against Bush? "It's the economy, stupid!" I have been reading about it more and more lately, and I am sure that all presidential candidates are well aware of it.

If you look at the chart, the number that jumps out is the return on the DJIA averages 15.71% during the presidential pre-election years. It is about twice as high as any other year. The midterm years are low. During the first year of a presidential term, the president has the benefit of a good economy and implements their programs or discontinues the ones he doesn't like. In the second year of his term, if it goes well, he can take credit. If it goes badly, he can blame the previous administration. In the third year or pre-election year, he better be sure to kick the economy into gear or risk losing re-election. The election year is where everything is more stable and trending up. These numbers confirm our supposition that there is a conscious effort to bolster our economy going into the election.

If we examine the home appreciation in California and San Francisco, our prices follow the general DJIA. This is also logical as real estate is a lagging indicator, meaning it will go up after the economy has rebounded and jobs have been created. Real estate appreciation is usually the function of a strong job market. Thus, if we believe what history is telling us, we should have good appreciation these next few years.

Currently, our real estate market is moving along steadily and uneventfully. The mortgage rate actually went up a little in October after the Federal Reserves dropped the rates in September because lenders had already anticipated the move and acted accordingly.

We will have an exciting election on Nov. 5. If you have not voted already, I encourage you to go and vote!

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Annual % Change in Year of Presidency

	DJIA	CA Homes	SF Homes
Election Year	+5.9%	+6.25%	+7.8%
Post-Election Year	8.15	9.31	8.1
Midterm Year	2.42	7.35	6.27
Pre-Election Year	15.71	6.23	2.42

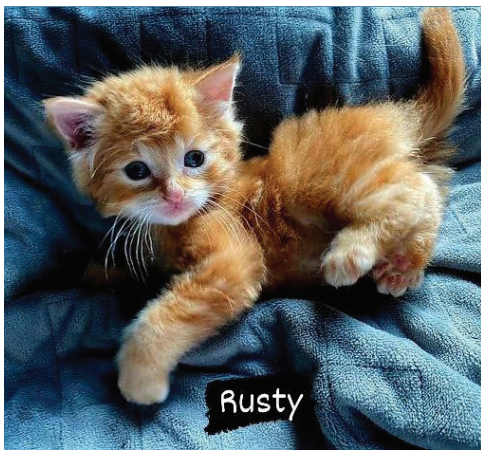
DJIA and CA Homes - Data from 1968 - present
SF Homes - Data from 1982 - present

Sunset Homes Sold in October*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
2282 20th Ave.	2	1.00	1,011	$1,049,000
2418 30th Ave.	2	1.00	1,287	1,300,000
2542 47th Ave.	3	1.00	1,213	1,375,000
1646 41st Ave.	2	1.00	1,150	1,400,000
1470 30th Ave.	2	2.00	1,430	1,450,000
2454 36th Ave.	2	1.00	1,369	1,480,000
1782 18th Ave.	3	2.00	1,386	1,550,000
1617 31st Ave.	2	1.00	1,470	1,625,000
1922 33rd Ave.	3	2.00	2,191	1,680,000
1923 45th Ave.	3	2.00	1,606	1,750,000
2590 Great Hwy.	3	2.00	1,490	1,925,000
2478 27th Ave.	4	4.50	2,417	2,228,000
2298 Cecilia Ave.	4	3.50	2,678	2,525,000

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

Pet Pix



Send up to three photos of your pet to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com by the 15th of the month for consideration for "Pet Pix." Please include your pet's name.

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San Francisco Taxpayers Association

Ballot Measures – Voting Recommendation

Your San Francisco Taxpayers Assoction, after thourough review of all 15 local and 10 state ballot measures, recommends the following taxpayer-affecting ballot measures:

Local Ballot Measures

• **Prop. A – NO.** Should we add new taxes of $3 billion, including interest, which will be paid off in fiscal year 2047-2048 by attaching parcel taxes to existing property taxes when we haven't yet paid off prior bonds or used the bond funds as voters intended? There is also a $10 billion state Education Bond to Repair Schools (Proposition 2) on the November 2024 ballot. With declining public school enrollment and questionable spending of past bonds, we should ensure we have a fiscally responsible School Board elected before approving more funds. Additionally, the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee needs to be empowered to fulfill its charge. We need full transparency and accountability and not what was discovered during COVID with the Oversight Committee's promises in the prior-approved Bond Measures non-existent. Voters have always been generous to public schools. ***It's time to vote NO on Prop. A!***
• **Prop B – NO.** Another bond, this one for homeless SF residents, and entitled "Community Health and Medical Facilities, Street Safety, Public Spaces, and Shelter to Reduce Homelessness Bond" will add more property taxes of $3.9 million, plus interest of $3.4 million over 30 years. Vote "no" and compel non-profit recipients to secure tax-deductible charitable contributions, from millionaires and billionaires. ***Vote NO on Prop. B.***
• **Prop C – NO.** This would add another City Hall office for an Inspector-General's Department while two other ballot measures ask voters to reduce such entities. We advise a "no" vote and rejection of this budget increase at least $725,000 annually. ***Vote NO on Prop. C.***
• **Props. D and E – YES, NO.** Proposition D sets a limit of 65 city commissions and saves taxpayers' money. Vote "yes," but reject a Board of Supervisors-spawned Prop. E which establishes a committee to study whether we have too many commissions. ***Vote YES on Prop. D, NO on Prop. E.***
• **Prop. F – NO.** Prop. F exemplifies City Hall's methods for approval to remedying a shortage of police officers. It would allow a cop to draw his or her retirement payments while still acting for five years as a paid police officer. It won't add a single officer, but fosters "double-dipping." ***Vote NO on Prop. F.***
• **Prop. G – NO.** Our controller points out that Proposition G "would have a significant impact on the cost of government in that it would reallocate funds that would otherwise be available, starting with at least $4 million in fiscal year 2026-2027… rising to a maximum of approximately $14 million in fiscal year 2045-2046." The purpose is a so-called Affordable Housing Opportunity Act. Taxpayers are being asked for their money to create yet another "set-aside" in the annual budget until 2047. The controller observes: "This proposed (Charter) amendment is not in compliance with a voter-adopted city policy regarding set-asides." ***Vote NO on Prop. G.***
• **Prop. H – NO.** Prop. H involves fire-fighters. There is no shortage and we like firefighters. Our controller concludes approval of Prop. H "would increase costs to the City" millions of dollars through fiscal year 2040-2041. We recommend rejection. ***Vote NO on Prop. H.***
• **Prop. I – NO.** We support Registered Nurses (RNs) and 9-1-1 operators, but Proposition I would exacerbate shortages of RNs and 911 operators. The latter's retirement law would abrogate the 20-year work requirement for a pension and substitute a mere five-year requirement. RNs would be able to retire three years early! Our controller finds that the annual costs of Prop. I would range from approximately $1.5 million to about $4.4 million per year and increase taxpayers' contributions accordingly. Regarding 9-1-1 operators, cost will increase to $2.3 million starting in 2025-2026 and continuing each year as the number of operators retire early at age 50. ***Vote NO on Prop. I.***
• **Prop. K – NO.**
The Great Highway exists because motor vehicle owners and drivers paid gasoline taxes for decades to pay for it. Park visitors didn't finance it. Bicycle riders never were taxed for it. Neither were walkers. Yet, the Board of Supervisors wants to prevent those financing the Great Highway by building a park and prohibiting all motorists, which renders it unavailable to senior citizens and disabled citizens. No money exists in our City's budget for any park project and Golden Gate Park is just steps away from the Great Highway. Closing the Great Highway to motor vehicles from noon on Friday to 6 a.m. on Monday represents a justifiable compromise which already exists. ***Vote NO on Prop. K.***
• **Prop. L – NO.** In 2022, San Francisco voters approved a hike in sales tax to fund Municipal Railway's related projects. By voting for that measure, we approved over $100 million dollars per year for the next 30 years for Muni. This proposition taxes Lyft, Uber and Waymo, and is just another money-grab for a failed Muni. It hasn't been two years since the 2022 ballot measure, and they are back in our wallets again. The Muni is worse than ever. Fare-dodgers, disruptive passengers, as well as other negative aspects of riding Muni have caused the numbers of passengers to tumble. Empty buses and streetcars abound; yet here we are facing another attempt to pump taxpayer money down this transit rat hole. All city businesses continue to suffer post pandemic. "For Lease" signs on commercial properties abound throughout the City. And now they want struggling businesses and the general public to pay another tax for Muni. ***Vote NO on Prop. L.***
• **Prop. N – NO.**
The SF Taxpayers Association fully supports first responders, Sheriff deputies, paramedics, nurses and 9-1-1 operators. This proposition, however, gives money to them for education and will further strain our deficit-ridden local budget. Additionally, there are many other worthy city employees and other departments excluded from such handouts. Favoring one sector of public employees would not be equal treatment for all. ***Vote NO on Prop. N.***
• **Prop. M – NO.** The mayor and the Board of Supervisors already have the taxpayers of San Francisco paying over one billion dollars per year for homeless related programs via the City budget. Now, they want to increase the taxes on already struggling businesses so they can spend even more on the homeless issue which has been a complete failure with the one billion dollars we have given them every year. Throwing more money at their failed program will only endorse bad management. The taxpayers deserve successful results on the money that continues to be spent yearly on the homeless before additional taxes burden the taxpayers. Send that message, ***Vote NO on Prop. M.***

State Ballot Measures

• **Prop. 2 – NO.** As the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association reminds taxpayers: A bond works like a government credit card (because) paying off that credit card requires borrowers to spend more of your tax dollars. For example, State Proposition 2 authorizes $10 billion in general obligation (G.O.) bonds for repair, construction and improving conditions of K-12 public schools (including charter schools), community colleges and career technical education programs. This taxpayer loan will, however, also cost taxpayers interest of about $500 million each year for 35 years (!) to repay this loan or $1.125 billion in total. Our children will be paying this for decades in a state with a government deficit of $77 million without Prop. 2 and other statewide bonds. ***Vote NO on Prop. 2.***
• **Prop. 4 – NO.** The state is already leveraged and in deficit. Additional borrowing should not be allowed. Water and wildfire mitigation expenses should be spent from the state budget and not interest-costing bonds. ***Vote NO on Prop. 4.***
• **Prop. 5 – NO.** Being saddled with a statewide deficit doesn't stop legislators who would inflict local taxpayers with debt for "affordable housing and infrastructure based on increased property taxes." Shifty legislators now ask us to lower the required voter approval for such expenditures from two-thirds to only 55%, another cute trick to burden local taxpayers.***Vote NO on Prop. 5.***
• **Prop. 33 – NO.** One of the last vestiges of small property ownership rights in California is to be able to rent your single-family property without excessive interference from state or local government. The present law protects the small property owner and makes it possible to pay for the upkeep, repair and mortgages on small rentals. Prop. 33 will further hinder rental construction because of the draconian measures written into Prop 33. Protect the rights of small property owners. ***Vote NO on Prop. 33.***
• **Prop. 35 – YES.** This ballot measure provides that the existing tax on managed health care insurance, which will otherwise expire in 2026, shall be permanent, if thereafter approved by the federal government. The tax provides money for medical treatment for low-income families with children, senior citizens, disabled people and other Medi-Cal recipients. It means increased money for Medi-Cal of $2 million to $5 billion annually and higher state costs of $1-2 billion each year for implementation. 99% of revenue must be used for patient care. There's no argument against Prop. 35 in the Voter Information Guide. ***Vote YES on Prop. 35.***
• **Prop. 36 – YES.** This voter-sponsored initiative in effect restores Penal Code prison and jail provisions which had encouraged "smash and grab" crimes, burglaries, (including auto thefts) and thefts in general. It's not only law enforcement and the courts which have been frustrated by the 2014 change in law to reduce penalties for thieves, but law-abiding citizens and California visitors who support Prop. 36. So do taxpayers. Convicted thieves will have an option to enter rehabilitation. Protect taxpayers and others. ***Vote YES on Prop. 36.***

Paid for by the San Francisco Taxpayer Association.
Judge Quentin L. Kopp (ret.), president, Peter Fatooh, vice president and Gina Tse-Louie, secretary-treasurer.

Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

It's Time for Voters to Decide

Many readers will be inoculated by this column's volubility, and many will explore it for blunders which render my observations and information subject to judgment and even criticism. It has been observed that criticism from a friend is better than flattery from an enemy. I bear no malice because the person who is not criticized isn't breathing. You might avoid criticism by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing.

In that spirit, I remind our City Hall geniuses on the second floor, we pay them expecting policy decisions. Instead, this month we encounter 15 ballot measures from them, several of which, like Proposition K (forbidding private motor vehicles from the Upper Great Highway) could have been enacted (or rejected) by the Board of Supervisors and mayor, plus 10 from state government which include five by the legislature and five by voter initiatives. It's fortunate the supervisors empowered voters to stop any vehicle on a structure for which taxpayers (not bicyclists) paid, because I think Prop. K will fail thanks to residents like Judi Gorski on 48th Avenue. May we be so fortunate with Proposition D's approval to limit City Hall commissions to 65!

For those of us who value legal immigration, Arizona voters would authorize local police (not just border patrol or state officers) to arrest illegal immigrants. (The "mainstream media" like the N.Y. Times describes them as "undocumented" immigrants, implying such lawbreakers forgot their papers at home that morning before sneaking into the U.S. of A.) Amendments to limit voting to U.S. citizens in all local and state elections will pass or fail in Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Wisconsin, but not in California where minors can vote for board of education candidates. Colorado, Florida, Georgia and New Mexico voters can reduce or limit property taxes, and a North Dakota initiative would abolish them entirely. Stay tuned, California.

Do you recall my noting that the S.F. Bicycle Coalition has been given $5.5 million of taxpayer money this budget year and $5.5 million next year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) for a "program" entitled "Safe Streets." An example exists with expenditure of over $1 million as of Sept. 11, 2024, on configuration of Valencia Street bicycle lanes by SFMTA which proclaims January 2025 as "launch window" for its new abuse of motorists and merchants. If tax money can be squandered, SFMTA will find a way to do it.

Peter Fatooh, a real estate appraiser and former Assessment Appeals Board commissioner, invites attention to current practices in the Assessor's Office which should be investigated by the Grand Jury or the White Collar Crime Unit of District Attorney Brooks Jenkins. A Noe Valley native, Mr. Fatooh asserts City Administrator Carmen Chu isn't fit to audit the Assessor's Office because she had her residence's property taxes reduced by then Assessor Phil Ting four years consecutively without Chu even filing a reduction request! After her appointment as assessor, she reduced her own residence property tax unilaterally without filing an appeal. Fatooh then requested relevant public records of that reduction. The city attorney represented Chu and waited over eight weeks, then denied the taxpayer's request. The Ethics Committee refused to act, claiming lack of jurisdiction.

The assessor's real estate appraisers now can't be found in their office on City Hall's first floor. The epidemic is over except in Assessor Joaquin Torres's office where taxpayers can't find appraisers to discuss real estate valuation options with a home-owning taxpayer. And there have been reductions in value (and consequent property tax reduction) of assessor office employees without any appeal being filed. Can you imagine?

With over 115 commissions, Proposition D on the Nov. 5 ballot demands passage. It's regrettable taxpayers must perform Board of Supervisors' obligation for "good government." It's an inanimate government which allows "vertically structured silos." (See June 25 Grand Jury report, p. 26, etc.) It also possesses "legislative fetish," to quote the Civil Grand Jury again. City Hall "places more measures on the ballot" than any other of California's 433 incorporated cities. From 2013 to 2022, "it exceeded its closest peer city by over 100%." The Grand Jury also observed: "The duties of the city administrator (the aforementioned Carmen Chu) are ambiguously defined and need more clarity."

My friend John Horgan in The Daily Journal last month invited voters in 11 San Mateo County school districts from Bayshore Elementary (near the Cow Palace, whose Grand National Rodeo last month was arresting as usual) to Belmont, Burlingame, Cabrillo (on the coast), to Daly City's Jefferson, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Pacifica, Ravenswood, San Bruno and Woodside to consider over $555 million in borrowing, plus parcel taxes of $14 million totaling $569 million on Nov. 5. The bond issues need a 55% "yes" vote and parcel taxes require approval by 66.66%. With our Board of Education election of Ann Hsu, Letteris Eleftheriou and Min Chang can stop pupil exodus from, and closure of, public schools which anticipate a decline of 5,000 students by 2029 and now contains over 14,000 empty seats with plans to close 102 schools while spending $38.2 million to ignore neighborhood schools by busing elementary school pupils from home to school and back by a private company.

Donald Trump will be sentenced Nov. 26 for conviction of violating New York law on business records. He's challenged the New York trial court judge who presided his May 31 conviction. On Dec. 11, each state governor submits certification of that state's electors. Mr. Trump and Ms. Harris have two separate elector lists, two for each U.S. senator and one for each House of Representatives member. California has 54. Wyoming has three. On Jan. 3, 2025, congressional members will be sworn in. The electoral count occurs Jan. 6. If neither Harris nor Trump obtain 270 or more votes, the House of Representatives votes, with each state having one vote and a majority of 26 states decides our next U.S. president.

Let's hope the national election somehow can be salvaged by salubrious Americans. Maybe we were better off when charity was a virtue instead of a tax deduction, but remember George Jean Nathan's wise warning: "Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote."

Happy Thanksgiving. Don't forget to name the turkey and make everyone uncomfortable!

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

Costume and Set Design Take Center Stage at Legion of Honor Exhibit

By Noma Faingold

The Legion of Honor kicks off its yearlong centennial celebration with an almost non-stop weekend of free performances, exhibits, educational talks and art activities, Nov. 9-11.

What should not get lost in deluge of culture is the new exhibition titled, "Dress Rehearsal: The Art of Theatrical Design," which spotlights costume and set design in the history of theater and dance.

Natalia Lauricella, assistant curator of Prints and Drawings at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF), had one of the largest collections in the United States from which to choose, centuries of delicate, rarely seen drawings and designs by important artists from different eras, including:

- Ballets Russes designer Léon Bakst (1908-1996).
- Avant-garde painters Natalia Sergeevna Goncharova (1881-1962) and Pablo Picasso (1881-1973).
- Cubo-futurist and Art Deco influencer Alexandra Exter (1882-1949).
- French painter/printmaker Marie Laurencin (1883-1956).
- Contemporary Canadian artist Marcel Dzama, best known for designs created for the New York City Ballet and represented by a 2015 work in the Legion show.

"The exhibit is specific, but these are stunning works," Lauricella said. "I think people will be excited to see it. They are colorful. They are ornate. They are exquisitely drawn by major artists who people might recognize. A lot of artists turned their immense talent in graphic arts to the stage."

"Dress Rehearsal" is on view in two galleries: Gallery 22 is devoted to more than 50 theater and dance drawings and etchings, while the Logan Gallery provides a counterpoint with books and print portfolios. Visitors can get up-close to material documenting the artistic process, such as a portfolio on rehearsals and training of ballet dancers or of a particular theatrical production.

The exhibition began to take shape years before Stanford University art history lecturer and postdoctoral teaching fellow Lauricella came to the FAMSF in April. The hardest part for Lauricella, who grew up in San Francisco and currently lives in the Inner Sunset District, was narrowing down the hundreds of works on paper in order to tell a story tracing the changes in costume and set design from what she refers to as the "early modern period" to the present.

"We have so many great ones. I wanted to show as much as I could, as far as a chronological timeline, where you can see amazing developments in stage design and tell a very visual story," she said. "Some works are final products but many are working drawings. It gives you insight into a designer's or artist's working method. There's excitement in the process of creation. Artists are trying to figure out how to bring these designs to life. It's a little bit of behind the scenes."

Placing Ballets Russes (1909-1929), the renowned dance company that began in Paris and toured all over the world, at the center of the exhibit is a nod to Alma de Bretteville Spreckels (1881–1968), co-founder of the Legion, who had a passionate interest in works related to the Ballets Russes troupe, which were donated to the museum from her personal collection.

Natalia Lauricella, assistant curator of Prints and Drawings at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF), in front of the Legion of Honor. *Photo by Noma Faingold.*

"The centennial of the Legion is a wonderful excuse to finally put this material on view," Lauricella said.

Upon entering Gallery 22, a tutu designed by Bakst and worn by Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova (1881-1931) is placed dramatically in a clear case, front and center. The costume was worn in performances of the "Dying Swan."

"Bakst was one of the greatest designers of the 20th century. We have rare drawings by him, which we are also planning to include," Lauricella said.

"Dress Rehearsal" focuses on a number of female artists, in addition to Exter and Goncharova, including Alice Halika of Poland (1894-1975) American surrealist painter, printmaker, sculptor, writer and poet Dorothea Tanning (1910-2012) and Argentine-Italian surrealist painter, designer and illustrator Leanor Fini (1907-1996).

Several of Ukrainian Exter's avant-garde pochoir works (hand colored silkscreen printmaking) will be on display. Even though created in the 1930s, the vibrant series of geometric compositions are examples of futuristic set design.

There are also drawings of two modern dance pioneers with local connections, Loie Fuller (1862-1928), who was a friend of Spreckels, and the naturalistic, improvisational Isadora Duncan (1877-1927), who was born and raised in San Francisco.

"The show has a focus on ballet but I was eager to have non-traditional dance styles incorporated," Lauricella said.

"Dress Rehearsal: The Art of Theatrical Design," opens Nov. 9 and runs through May 11, 2025, at the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. Centennial weekend, Nov. 9-11, featuring performances, exhibitions and art activities, is free. Learn more at famsf.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRDING FOR FAMILIES

San Francisco Nature Education conducts field trips for parents and their children ages 4-12 to learn about local birds in parks throughout San Francisco. Please join us on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. at the San Francisco Botanical Garden's main entrance kiosk. We loan binoculars to children and adults and provide nature journals for kids. Adults $15, children $5. All participants must pre-register: sfnature.org.

CAR FOR SALE

2008 VW like-new beetle for sale. Great body, white interior, good black paint, brand new tires from Costco, doesn't smoke or burn oil, engine runs great, 5,875 miles. Clean title, clean car in SF. 805-455-9520.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stance on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

COMMISSIONED SALES POSITION AVAILABLE

Earn extra income while getting to know your neighborhood and neighbors better. Ad sales for the Sunset Beacon is a fun way to learn more about local businesses. No quota, no set hours, work at your own pace letting business owners know about their advertising options. Generous commissions. Sales experience helps but is not required. To learn more, call 415-706-6428, or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

DIWALI CELEBRATION AT FARMERS MARKET

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile (OSFMM) will celebrate Diwali with a cultural exhibit, crafts by children, a sari show, dances, a cooking demonstration and food sharing with the community. Diwali has many interpretations in Hindu mythology, but the common belief is to honor the victory of good over evil, or light over darkness. In India, houses are lit up with lights, floors are decorated with Rangoli paintings, food is shared with families and the festivities are marked with dances and music. There are many ways for the community to participate in the event. Contact supportship@sunsetmercantilesf.com to find out how.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop-in for a one-on-one session in English. Friday, Nov. 22, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Ortega Library (3223 Ortega St.). We are also seeking volunteers who speak English and/or Cantonese. For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org.

FREE EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, SUNSET BRANCH
1305 18TH AVE., 415-355-2808, sunmgr@SFPL.org

Tutorial: Tablet/Smartphone Class For Older Adults 60+. Friday, Nov. 15, 1-2:30 p.m. Self-Help for the Elderly's training program is ideal for those seeking to enhance their technical skills. The program focuses on hands-on training, allowing participants to become proficient in using their smartphones and tablets. Bring your device along and prepare to become an expert! Device type: iOS and Android. Topic: Photography.

- How to download and save photos.
- How to share photos to others (via message, E-mail, WhatsApp). Space limited. Reservations required: 415-355-2808.

Tutorial: Book a Librarian. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26. One-on-one information session. Services can include tech questions for iPhone or Android smartphones, internet searching and more. Each session is 30 minutes. Space limited. Reservations required: 415-355-2808.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy November birthday to Marina Bascus, George Brown V, Jack Buckley, Alex Dillon, Julia B. D., Dara Dear Engel, Annie Felix, Rachel Hatch, Bud Hauso, Rich Hom, Megan Kathleen, Finn Doliner-Kelly, Frankie Ryder King, Woody LaBounty, Ted Manahan, Miranda Martinez, Kelley Meck, Candace Mills, Juanita Monagle, Anna O'Banion, Maddie Patsel, Tammy Pham, Garrett Pieramico, Azadeh Reiskin, Kirby Rittman, Savannah, Loretta Sholler, Carter Tsang, Jacob Vang, Stephanie LeBeau Watson, Kimberly Wong and Charlotte Yee. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Join us for a Holiday Bazaar on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 1750 29th Ave. Needlework, jewelry, baked goods, collectibles, hand-made items and silent auction. Hearty lunch available for $17, served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

INTRODUCING "PET PIX"

We will be featuring photos of your beloved pets each month. Send a jpeg with a brief caption to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com by the 22nd of the month.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The San Francisco Long-Term Care Ombudsman program offers free, confidential support to address issues raised by residents in long-term care facilities and free training opportunities for those interested in becoming volunteer ombudsmen. For details on training or accessing support, call 415-751-9788 or email ombudsman@felton.org.

MAGIC SHOW AT SEALEVEL GALLERY

SeaLevel Sleight of Hand – An Evening of Intimate Magic. Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. Step into a world of wonder with an enchanting evening of close-up magic. We're bringing together three master magicians – each of whom has called the Outer Sunset home for decades – making this event a true celebration of local talent and community. Prepare to be amazed by Jade, an award-winning magician and the first woman to ever win The Gold Medal of Magic. She has dazzled audiences around the world and appeared on Penn and Teller's Fool Us. Joining her is Ken Sonkin, voted the #1 street performer in San Francisco, with appearances on The Late Show, Comedy on the Road and a performance for Queen Elizabeth II of England. Rounding out the lineup is Matthew Holtzman, a parlor magician whose MAGIC * MUSIC * MADNESS show has captivated California audiences with his blend of charm and skill. Buy tickets at SealevelSF.com.

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Prime Inner Richmond location. Approx. 300 SF, Move-in condition! For more info, contact Erston Pearcy at 415-625-0000, x2120 or erston@housingguild.com (DRE #03198768).

OUTER SUNSET FARMERS MARKET AND MERCANTILE

Join us every Sunday at the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile where you can find fresh produce from local farmers and ranchers, enjoy delicious dishes from Outer Sunset eateries and discover unique finds from local makers and artisans. Every Sunday, find a revolving series of live performers, engaging activities and exhibitions at the ArtShip and fun zone! Our farmers market accepts WIC, EBT and Market Match. 37th Avenue at Ortega Street, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Go to sunsetmercantilesf.com or call 415-465-2475 for more details.

"PHOTOS OF THE MONTH" ONLINE GALLERY

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PIANO LESSONS

With my unique teaching method, I will show you how to find every chord on the keyboard – major, minor, sharp and flat – in the first lesson. Then I'll show you how to start playing songs at your very first lesson. No need to be able to read music. Call Michael at 415-706-6428 to learn more.

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Monday, Nov. 4, 8-9 a.m., Outer Sunset Morning Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/604552/.
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 3-4 p.m., Sunset Branch Library Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/645505/.
Sunday, Nov. 10, 1-3 p.m., Great Highway Park Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/448138/.
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 4-5 p.m., Inner Sunset Happy Hour Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/581814/.
Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-noon, Inner Sunset Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/464169/.

SECONDHAND SATURDAYS

Come check out Secondhand Saturdays and celebrate all things vintage, antique and secondhand. Presented by Sunset Mercantile every third Saturday of the month at Ortega Street and 37th Avenue, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Shop local from more than 50 vintage vendors, makers and artisans that are some of the Bay Area's best. Enjoy live music, family-friendly activities, food trucks, rotating monthly features and more! Visit sunsetmercantilesf.com/secondhand/ for more information.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying "older stamps" from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the Sunset Beacon readers who generously donated or signed up for our Patreon campaign. Your contribution helps keep us financially healthy. If you donated and would like some of our Sunset Beacon branded products (tote bag, pens, coffee mug, hat or shirt), please send an email to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. We would also like to share just your name in the paper to thank you. Please let us know if that is OK. To donate, please visit our website to sign up for our Patreon campaign or send send a check to: Sunset Beacon, P.O. Box 16035, SF, CA, 94116. Thank you!

TRUMPET FOR SALE

Bach Strad trumpet for sale, and cash paid for jazz records. Call 415-665-1792.

Announcements: $1 per word, 20-word minimum. Share birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births, obituaries, graduations, sports highlights, business accomplishments, retirements, college admissions, etc.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or submit free community events at no charge. FREE: There is no charge for occasional announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send announcement to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Announcements will run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,200 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (more than 20,000 views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 20th of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116. Call 415-706-6428 or email editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

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Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

AAPI Mental Health Resources

It has been a trying few years for our Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) neighbors. The pandemic not only escalated a rise in Asian hate, but it also exacerbated mental health struggles. Leaders like myself became painfully aware of the lack of resources available to AAPI communities – from keeping our seniors safe to providing emotional support that could help people in crisis.

I'm happy to report that $6.5 million I championed from the 2022-23 California budget is a step closer to enhancing culturally competent mental health services available on the west side. I thank San Francisco Supervisor Connie Chan for bringing this need to my attention. With this state investment, Richmond Area Multi-Services Inc. (RAMS) was able to purchase the building at 601 Clement St. We appropriately broke ground on the property on Oct. 10, which is World Mental Health Day, an opportunity to raise awareness about mental health issues and what more can be done to increase access to care.

While the project's groundbreaking enables the renovations to proceed, it symbolizes much more. When the renovations are finished, the nonprofit's new hub will raise the bar on mental health care for our area. A centralized location mean RAMS can offer outpatient counseling services, a wellness center and training for psychology professionals in one spot.

For 50 years, they have been a valuable partner in offering mental health care that focused on clients, community and culture. Their expertise is in AAPI clients, who often have unique needs and face barriers to getting emotional support. Last year, RAMS helped 12,500 clients and reached more than 20,000 with prevention and education services in more than 30 languages. It's time this successful provider had a place they can call their own, so they can serve our residents for generations to come.

Since state investment in AAPI communities has been lacking for several years, one of my priorities during my years as Assembly budget chair was to increase state funding for services and programs that are geared toward Asians, especially when it came to counseling. This is important to me because AAPI individuals have the lowest rate of seeking mental health care of any racial or ethnic group. In fact, it's less than 50%, according to a study by UCLA last year. A separate examination of 2022 statistics by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health found suicide to be the leading cause of death among Asians, ages 15 to 24. This is heartbreaking.

Researchers primarily cite the stigma associated with needing mental health care and how it's wrongly construed as a weakness. Secondly, they found that talking openly about sadness, disappointment or depression is rarely encouraged in Asian families. That's why we need local organizations, like RAMS. Their efforts are helping to change these concepts and opening doors for AAPIs to get the support they need. In addition, having workers who understand cultures, speak the same language as their clients, and experience similar struggles are essential to improving health outcomes.

I expect demand for mental health services and programs for AAPI communities will grow, as seeking help becomes more acceptable. RAMS will be ready to meet the moment. The Clement Street location is expected to open next spring. In the meantime, its other offices are open, ready to provide help. Just take the first step and ask. Visit its website, RamsInc.org, to find a location or phone number for the support you need.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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Photo by Kyle Bettis.

JAMES J. RUSSO, CPA
Income Tax Preparation and Planning
BEWARE: Once the year ends (soon), it will be too late to lower your taxes! Many people wish they planned ahead to prepare for a tax hit. I CAN HELP! Call me and we can crunch the numbers.
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Keep the Great Highway Open for Everyone

The Upper Great Highway is for pedestrians, cyclists AND MOTORISTS.

Vote "NO" on Prop. K because:

- **It was created in secrecy with the signatures of five SF supervisors. There was no advance notice to community and business organizations.**
- **There have been no environmental impact studies undertaken to determine the affects of 13,000-20,000 vehicles a day using side streets.**
- **Prop. K would encourage the construction of high-rises the length of Ocean Beach.**
- **There is no park! There are no plans for removing the sand necessary for a park, much less creating one.**
- **Families and veterans need this vital transportation link.**

Vote "No" on Prop. K

Sponsored by private individual

Police Blotter

Shooting into Inhabited Dwelling or Occupied Vehicle, Aggravated Assault with Gun: Kezar Drive, Golden Gate Park, Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m.

Officers responded to Park Station for a road rage incident in which a shooting occurred.

On arrival, officers interviewed the victims who informed them that while driving east on Kezar Drive where the two lanes merge into one lane, the driver of a silver Hyundai became upset at the victims.

As the victims approached the intersection of Stanyan and Oak streets, a passenger from the suspect vehicle threw a water bottle into the victim's vehicle at which point the victim threw the water bottle back. As the victims approached the turn-around at Stanyan and Oak streets, the victims heard one gunshot emanate from the suspect vehicle. The victims later stopped and observed a bullet hole in their vehicle.

The victims drove to Park Police Station to report the incident.

Officers later canvassed the area of the incident and located a spent casing. Officers utilized the FLOCK license plate reader system to find a possible match of the suspect vehicle. They located one vehicle that matched the description the victims provided. Officers showed a photograph of the vehicle to the victim. The victim confirmed the vehicle was the suspect vehicle involved in the incident.

Officers conducted a photo line-up including the possible suspect with inconclusive results.

Officers disseminated an email with the vehicle and suspect descriptions. Later in the afternoon, plainclothes officers set up surveillance in the vicinity of the registered owner's residence. They later saw the possible suspect park near the registered owner's residence. Officers detained the driver without incident.

Officers conducted a "cold show" to the victims, who positively identified the suspect and the vehicle involved the incident.

The suspect was arrested for aggravated assault, grossly and negligently discharging a firearm and possession of a controlled substance.

Threats: 3600 Block of Taraval Street, Oct. 2, 9:53 p.m.

A suspect went into a bar and started causing a disturbance. The victim, the bartender, asked the suspect to leave. The suspect was upset and threatened to use a knife and stab him.

The suspect was detained and after further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Battery: 1800 Block of 14th Avenue, Oct. 3, 10:17 a.m.

The victim came to Taraval Station to report a battery incident. The victim, an employee of the Department of Public Works, was clearing the green brush off the side of a hill when the suspect confronted him about what he was doing. The suspect did not like the victim's answer, so the suspect pushed the victim and walked away.

Vandalism: 14th Avenue and Wawona Street, Oct. 4, 12:21 p.m.

An SFPD ambassador told officers the ambassador team was conducting a well-being check on a suspect blocking a sidewalk. The ambassadors asked the suspect if he needed any assistance. The suspect got angry and spat at the ambassador.

The suspect walked down the street and vandalized six vehicles.

The suspect was arrested.

Trespassing, Vandalism: 1600 Block of the Great Highway, Oct. 5, 4:07 p.m.

The victims told the officer they heard a noise and found the suspect inside a bathroom.

The suspect had kicked through a vent and entered the home.

The suspect did not steal anything. The suspect was detained, and the victims refused to press charges.

The suspect was released.

Driving While Under the Influence: 18th Avenue and Judah Street, Oct. 6, 5:22 p.m.

The victim told officers that a vehicle had rear-ended his vehicle.

Officers spoke to the driver and determined he was intoxicated.

After further investigation, the driver was arrested.

Theft From a Vehicle: 2500 Block of 26th Avenue, Oct. 7, 2:18 a.m.

A witness observed two suspects who were attempting to burglarize a home. The witness followed one of the suspects.

An officer detained the suspect and after further investigation, officers determined that the suspect had gone into an unlocked vehicle and stolen numerous items.

The suspect was later cited.

Outstanding Warrant: Judah and La Playa Streets, Oct. 15, 2:37 p.m.

Officers were on patrol when they saw a known subject who had been arrested in the past for intoxication and trespassing.

A computer check on the subject revealed that he currently had four outstanding warrants for his arrest.

The subject was arrested.

Robbery, Kidnapping: 2100 Block of Irving Street, Oct. 17, 11:06 a.m.

The victim had just finished delivering merchandise to a dispensary. The victim was putting away an empty tote bag when suddenly three suspects approached and attempted to force him into the van.

The victim was able to break free.

The suspects took merchandise from the van before fleeing.

The victim told the officers that he believed the suspects were going to kidnap him to show them where the warehouse is located.

Robbery: Eighth Avenue and Ortega Street, Oct. 22, 10:43 p.m.

When the victim parked his vehicle, he saw the suspect vehicle making a U-turn. The victim watched a suspect exit the vehicle and look into parked vehicles.

The victim started walking away, but the suspect saw the victim looking and approached him and confronted him. The suspect demanded the victim's property and then brandished a firearm.

The suspect then punched the victim and forcefully took the victim's property and fled the scene.

Battery: 900 Block of Quintara Street, Oct. 23, 1:31 p.m.

The victim was trying to get into an apartment building, but it was blocked by eight juveniles. The victim asked them to move but they ignored him. The victim asked again, and they didn't move. The victim forced his way into the building and the suspects got upset and two of the suspects pushed him.

The victim called 9-1-1 and the suspects fled onto Muni.

Burglary: 3801 Block of Noriega Street, Oct. 23, 3:34 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of suspects trying to take an ATM from inside a building.

Arriving officers located the suspect vehicle.

The suspects fled from the officers, leading them on a chase to Oakland where they evaded officers.

Digital Bulletin Boards

Continued from page 1

is ramping up distribution at the indoor locations his newspaper can be found, such as in the Castro neighborhood.

Gitis has been in discussions with the offices of District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar (whose district includes West Portal) and District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman (whose district includes the Castro).

"Julia is amazingly creative and has done an amazing job of outreach in West Portal," Michael R. Farrah Jr., a legislative aide to Melgar, said. "She has found new ways to build community with better communication and it is hard not to be in favor of that. We look forward to working with her on next steps."

A spokesperson for Mandelman confirmed that the topic was raised but they have not had the opportunity to discuss the subject in depth.

Gitis said her effort is an independent one.

"This is a new nonprofit I'm trying to start," she said. "As we move forward, I'll fill out the paperwork to be official."

Gitis said the public in West Portal seemed most interested in the upcoming events part of the digital bulletin board. But in the Bayview, people were more interested in community resources, she said.

"I think in neighborhoods where people are looking for jobs, there are more requests for community resources and support on the screens as well," she said. "People here really like arts, pets and fun things. The idea is to always partner with the neighborhood association, the merchant's association and community leaders that are there to source the content for the screen."

The price tag will depend on the vendors, Gitis said.

"There are different vendors selling different ones, so I don't know which one we're going to purchase yet," she said. "I'm talking to the supervisor's (Melgar's) office here; I'm talking, in the Castro, with Mike Yamashita to Mandelman about it. It'll be expensive. It will probably be tens of thousands of dollars, but there is a revenue opportunity of putting an ad on the back. If you look at companies like Clear Channel, they're a billion-dollar corporation based on the ads on the backs of everything."

Prevention of vandalism and destruction is also a factor to be considered when choosing a vendor.

"Vandalism's probably the number one feedback I get," Gitis said. "We'll go with the industry standard. There are lots of screens in public spaces in different cities."

Foxtail Hill Windows & Doors, Inc.

Vincent Keehan
Owner

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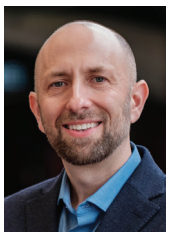

Supervisor Joel Engardio

If Prop. K Wins or Fails

Many readers will still be voting until Nov. 5 when this month's issue of the Sunset Beacon is published. Given how close some races are, we won't know the final results for at least a week after the election. Every vote matters.

Prop. K will be closely watched since it will determine the future of the Great Highway. If you're reading this before Nov. 5, below are some points to consider as you decide how to vote.

If you're reading this after we know the results, I will also explain what happens if Prop. K wins or fails. And I'll mention what's going to happen no matter what.

If you're still deciding how to vote, this is what Prop. K will and won't do:

Prop. K only considers closing the section of the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard, which has never had any on/off ramps for cars to access the Sunset District.

It's important to note that the state is requiring the closure of the Great Highway south of Sloat due to coastal erosion. This has already been legislated. Without a direct connection to Daly City, we have the opportunity to reconsider the best use of the section between Lincoln and Sloat.

Prop. K doesn't touch the Great Highway north of Lincoln. This will remain open to cars 24/7 for direct access between Richmond and Sunset residents at Point Lobos, Balboa, Fulton and Lincoln. You will always be able to go around Golden Gate Park. This is how drivers get between the Sunset and Richmond now, and that will not change.

What About Coastal Development?

Prop. K does not allow for new development along the beach because it designates a section of the Upper Great Highway as park land. San Francisco's constitution – the city charter – prohibits building housing on park land. Any private development in our parks requires a citywide vote to move forward. Our parks and our precious coast will be protected from development.

Where Are the Park Plans?

Prop. K asks a simple question: Do voters want the middle section of the Upper Great Highway to remain a road or become a park?

If the people say yes to a park, then we can begin the long public process of park planning. We already know the weekend road closure without any park amenities is popular. The asphalt has become San Francisco's third most-visited park because people want to experience the coast in a way they cannot on the sand or a narrow foot path.

Where is the Funding?

If Prop. K passes, there will be short-term and long-term funding. Initially, the City would continue to fund landscape maintenance through the Recreation and Park Department and sand clearing through the Department of Public Works. Low-cost amenities, like benches and picnic tables, could be installed. Eventually, there would be a public outreach process to solicit ideas on park design and capital improvements. State and federal grants, a future park bond and public-private partnerships like a park conservancy could provide funds. A coastal park could be eligible for federal funds not available to non-coastal parks. But we can't begin that process until the voters decide how to use this space.

What About Traffic Flow?

Prop. K will not force drivers onto Chain of Lakes and 19th Avenue. Drivers will always be able to go around Golden Gate Park from the Outer Richmond to Lincoln Way. Replacing stop signs with traffic lights on Lincoln will make it easier to get to Sunset Boulevard, where there are three lanes of north/south traffic in each direction. We've already made traffic flow improvements by moving the bus stops to the far side of the intersections, allowing for cars to make right turns without being blocked by a loading bus. Traffic lights can be timed for better flow.

What Happens if Prop. K wins?

There will be a public process about the transition to a full-time park. It won't happen overnight. Status quo will remain to obtain necessary permits and implement traffic flow improvements. The creation of a full-time park will still require state Coastal Commission approval.

What Happens if Prop. K Fails?

The pilot weekend closure will continue until December 2025. Then the Upper Great Highway will revert to 24/7 car usage in January 2026. The 11 members of the Board of Supervisors could decide the road's fate any time before or after the pilot closure ends in December 2025. Or another ballot measure could be decided by voters in the elections of June or November 2026.

What Happens No Matter What?

We will get traffic flow improvements whether Prop. K wins or fails.

I'm drafting legislation to help expedite the planning, development and contracting process for city agencies to implement westside priority traffic management projects.

Many residents feel the City is failing to coordinate and adequately manage current traffic as they move across the west side. Regardless of Prop. K, I am committed to improving traffic flow so our communities in the Sunset and Richmond remain connected to one another.

Why Was This on The Ballot This Year?

I've always talked about the pending closure of the Great Highway south of Sloat due to coastal erosion and how it would create the opportunity for a permanent oceanside park between Lincoln and Sloat. This language has been on my website and platform since my campaign in 2022.

I also opposed the Prop. I ballot measure in 2022 to reopen the Upper Great Highway to cars 24/7. I publicly said at candidate debates that I was against Prop. I because it would not allow for a weekend closure and precluded any opportunity for a permanent park.

While I agreed with many residents that the weekend compromise was good, a lot has changed in the past two years.

Prop. I failed both citywide and in the Sunset. Supervisors voted 9-2 to reject removing Fridays from the weekend closure. Advocates wanting to open the Upper Great Highway to cars 24/7 failed multiple attempts to eliminate the weekend compromise, with appeals all the way to the state Coastal Commission. And the Board of Supervisors has already voted unanimously to protect the oceanside wastewater treatment plant from coastal erosion – a project that requires closing the Great Highway south of Sloat.

All of these developments since 2022 have changed everything.

A majority of the Board of Supervisors currently supports closing the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat. They could decide the road's fate before the weekend pilot ends in December 2025. There won't be another election until June 2026.

A ballot measure now lets those who oppose a park organize against it. And it asks supporters to make their case for why we need it. Let's not forget that one side already had a ballot measure in 2022 to open the highway to cars 24/7.

Everyone deserves a say in how to use their precious coast. A vote at the ballot box where everyone has an equal vote is the most open, transparent and democratic way to resolve the question of what to do with a section of the coast that belongs to all.

Why a Park?

Creating a park on a section of the Great Highway will be good for the environment, give people of all ages better access to the coast, and bring new customers to our small businesses. We are doing this for our families, our kids, and grandkids. This is for the future.

We can have all this benefit while helping car drivers get where they need to go – and create joy for generations to come.

Joel Engardio is the District 4 representative on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He can be reached at engardio.com/contact.

Kilduff's Korner By Paul Kilduff

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I DON'T NEED THE MONEY!
I'M A PROGRESSIVE - ASK MY TENNANTS
HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME?
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MARK FARRELL
DAN LURIE
PESKIN
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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Long-time reader, first time commenting. But, I cannot hold myself back.

As I type this, my blood boils from Kopp's ridiculous opinion which states both our presidential candidates are subpar. I do not need to expand upon Trump's whole dumpster fire of a first term, absolute disgust of Jan. 6 and now this wretched campaign.

But, as a woman, I am so repulsed by Kopp's digging up a story from 2019 where someone was upset that Ms Harris was demanding or had high expectations of her staff. Really? This is a trope of a strong, assertive woman is so played out. Once again, here is an older, white man disparaging a woman of color.

This is the reason this election is so important – as women, our lives are at stake. LGBTQ citizens, Department of Education, Workers Rights, No Fault Divorce, IVF … the list continues as what will be destroyed. Our democracy is at stake. Maybe for old, wealthy, white guys this won't be so bad, but for the rest of us ….

So, Quentin Kopp, I strongly disagree that we have two poor candidates. And I find your opinion off base and truly out of touch. Just like we joke in our family (based off the original "Father of the Bride"), Welcome to the 2020's, Mr. Kopp.

Gretchen Tallon

Editor:

We are voting "yes" on K to transform an unreliable roadway into an unparalleled park.

Longtime Outer Sunset resident Eddy Rubin writes about Ocean Beach in his soon-to-be-published book:

"Seven million people live in the San Francisco Bay Area, one of North America's most densely populated regions. But Ocean Beach feels apart, always turning away from the metropolis and toward the sea. Above all, OB, as we call it, is wildness."

Ocean Beach is a unique place. That is especially true for westside residents, for whom the place where our City meets the wildness of the Pacific Ocean stirs a sense of neighborhood pride. This November, Proposition K offers us a chance to transform this piece of our coast into a park that will help preserve Ocean Beach and allow more people to enjoy the wildness that is OB.

As drivers, we know that the Great Highway from Lincoln to Sloat is losing most of its utility as a roadway. Coastal erosion is permanently closing the southern end of the road; the law closing that section unanimously passed at the Board of Supervisors in April. This means the Upper Great Highway will no longer be a direct link in and out of the City – a use case that accounts for almost 80% of trips on the road. Further, the section that Prop. K would turn into a park – from Lincoln to Sloat – closes 32-65 weekdays each year due to sand buildup, forcing drivers to take frequent, unexpected inland detours.

However we vote on Prop. K, Mother Nature is bringing big changes to our westside commutes that will require routing inland toward Sunset Boulevard. Prop. K asks us: If we're already turning inland, are we willing to make that turn at Lincoln instead of Sloat in exchange for a new oceanfront park?

The weekend pilot promenade is already the City's third most visited park space according to the Recreation and Park Department, demonstrating a clear desire by people to enjoy the oceanfront without going onto the beach itself. Parents with strollers, people using wheelchairs, kids learning to ride bikes – the pilot has opened the coast for them to enjoy in ways not possible on the beach.

That pilot expires next year, after which the Upper Great Highway will return to full-time use as a roadway. This election is the only chance for voters to have a direct say before that happens. Park opponents worked for years to undo the weekend pilot through multiple legal challenges including an appeal to the Coastal Commission this May, and even sponsored Prop. I in 2022 to require the Great Highway be used 24/7/365. Their persistence highlights a clear need for the voters to settle a simple question: Do San Franciscans want part of our coast to be a park?

The environmental benefits of a park are well documented. According to the SF Estuary Institute, a park promenade offers "the greatest and most immediate ecological benefits" for Ocean Beach because it "would eliminate fast-moving vehicles that restrict the movement of many animals, and reduce car-associated light and noise which can disorient and harm wildlife." The opportunity to restore the coastal dunes and remove pollution from car and tire brakes, which goes directly into the ocean and harms wildlife, has also garnered endorsements of Prop. K from the City's leading environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Golden Gate Bird Alliance, the League of Conservation Voters and others. Proposition K provides a park for San Franciscans today, but more importantly helps preserve Ocean Beach for future generations.

The success of the pilot park shows that people want to recreate by the coast. But the weekend-only pilot does not allow even the most basic park features like seating and art, because they get in the way of cars on weekdays. Prop. K would fix that, allowing the Recreation and Park Department to manage the space as a full-time park with full-time park amenities.

JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park shows us what that can look like, and how successful it can be. Without any additional park funding, converting JFK Drive into a promenade increased visitation to Golden Gate Park by 36%. Simple, low-cost improvements like seating and art improve the park experience for all visitors, but especially seniors and people with limited mobility. The same is possible on our coast. If Prop. K passes, the Recreation and Park Department will finally be able to make similar improvements to transform the Upper Great Highway into an oceanfront park promenade. Prop. K is also the necessary first step to begin conversations about what larger improvements the community would like to see, like adding bathrooms or other park amenities. Those conversations can't start until we first know whether the space will be a park in the first place.

In a challenging time for our City, Proposition K is a bright spot of opportunity. We can continue to fight Mother Nature to keep an unreliable roadway, or we can seize the opportunity to transform our coast into an unparalleled park space that will help us preserve Ocean Beach for the next generation. Will you join us in voting "yes" on K?

Lucas Lux and Jane Lew, residents of the Outer Sunset and Outer Richmond districts respectively and volunteer directors for the Friends of Great Highway Park

Editor:

Line by line, here are the facts when they're not twisted:

Voting "yes" on Prop K. will not create a park on the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard. It will not be good for the environment, give people of all ages better access to the coast or bring new customers to our small businesses. The weekday closure of the highway will harm our families, our kids and grandkids who will suffer the effects of close to 100,000 vehicles per week being diverted from the safe highway onto local residential streets with dangerous intersections at every block.

Prop. K closes a very heavily driven section of the Great Highway.

Prop. K will force drivers onto Chain of Lakes and 19th Avenue. The Vision Zero District 4 Report Card published by WalkSF lists as two of the 10 most dangerous intersections: 41st Avenue at Chain of Lakes; and Sunset Boulevard at Wawona Street. Several schools are in front of Sunset Boulevard with its three lanes of heavy traffic in both directions. Imagine adding thousands more vehicles to it.

One has to question the supervisor's statement that the southern section of the Great Highway is necessarily closing after Election Day whether Prop. K wins or loses, because if that were true, why is it included as something voters will be voting on when they vote on Prop. K? See, Sec. 6.15 of Prop. K. Restricting Vehicles on the Great Highway Extension. "… because that portion of the street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic."

The section south of Sloat Boulevard has nothing to do with the utility of the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat. If cars are forced to turn left at Sloat as they exit the southern end of the highway after entering from Lincoln, they drive a very short distance on Sloat before connecting with Skyline Blvd and continue on south down the coastal highway. This will directly connect them to Daly City and other southern destinations. Prop. K asks us to unnecessarily congest our roads, drive longer distances and travel through as many dangerous intersections as possible.

The utility, beauty and safety of the Great Highway is attributed to the fact that there are no on/off ramps for cars. Cars drive nonstop for two miles at 30 mph with no dangerous intersections or cross traffic via timed traffic lights. Prop. K bans vehicles from ever using the highway again, whether for twice daily commutes or the occasional scenic coastal ride.

Although this section of the Great Highway bypasses all the businesses and schools in the Sunset, that's a good thing, a safe thing, and closing it will divert all the cars, trucks, delivery vans, construction vehicles, big rigs and motorcycles (some in groups of 100+) onto the streets where they will drive right in front of several schools creating a dangerous situation.

Lincoln Way, Sunset Boulevard and 19th Avenue are all known for the injuries and crashes that regularly occur on them, but the opposite is true for this 2-mile section of the Great Highway. If the City could make these roads as safe as the highway, they would have done it by now, but all efforts have been costly failures. Nothing done so far has resulted in making these alternatives the preferred routes that have kept drivers from cutting through neighborhood streets.

Nowhere in Prop. K are voters asked: Do people want this road to become a park? Prop. K does not mention the word park or provide any funding for a park to replace the closed highway. It does not estimate the cost of a park. It does not ask for environmental studies before changing its use. It eliminates any possibility of community engagement about the data that was collected so far and stops all future data gathering. It does not provide any protection for the fragile eroding sand dunes. It ignores the ongoing destruction of the habitat of the endangered snowy plovers from the massive increase in foot traffic over the National Wildlife Sanctuary located between the west side of the highway and the beach. Oddly, Friends of Great Highway Park have a snowy plover mascot that entertains children as their spokesperson hands out propaganda and falsely claims passing Prop. K will protect the endangered shorebirds by closing the Great Highway because "if there weren't cars on the highway they wouldn't be getting killed by cars running them over." Wouldn't it be great to see those statistics? Who has ever witnessed or even heard of one snowy plover being run over by moving traffic on the Great Highway?

The question is, despite the fact that this section of highway is designed as a multi-use space for all to share whether walking, biking or driving, and is currently being used that way from 6 a.m. Monday through noon Fridays, why is it not enough to have it car free from noon every Friday, all day and night every Saturday, all day and night every Sunday and all day and night every holiday?

This is on the ballot because the supervisor of District 4 put it there in the least open, transparent and democratic way, blindsiding the majority of his constituents by secretly working on it for months to obtain input from the city attorney and convincing 4 other supervisors to sign on, as he hid it from merchants and other directly impacted residents, and then strategically filed it on the last day to file a ballot measure so no opposition to it could be filed in time for this election. "The coast belongs to all San Franciscans and everyone should have a say," is his justification for making sure eight out of 11 San Francisco districts that do not and will not experience the daily impacts of a closed Great Highway (other than the precedent it will set for road closures throughout the City in their districts) will be voting on the fate of it, influenced by heavily financed propaganda being spread citywide by those whose favor he seeks.

To keep sharing the very safe Great Highway with the thousands of vehicles driving on it Monday through Friday, vote "no" on Prop K. A no vote will still keep it car free every weekend and holiday and for special events. No on Prop. K!

Judi Gorski

Editor:

As two generations of an Outer Sunset family – one in college, one having been retired for more than 20 years – we love our neighborhood. We love going on walks, enjoying ocean views and seeing children have space to play.

In the past, we mostly walked along the streets of the Avenues, but it was a whole new experience when the City closed part of the Upper Great Highway for the community to have the outdoor recreation space. Suddenly, we had this wide open space right next to the ocean, and it became a place where we could walk and enjoy nature

Continued on page 12

Upzoning

Continued from page 1

commercial corridors to six, eight or as much as 14 stories on certain corner lots.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, who is running for mayor against Breed, says her programs are unnecessary and do not help.

"We have 73,000 fully approved, fully entitled, shovel-ready projects in the pipeline that aren't being built, not because of NIMBYs, not because of the Board of Supervisors but because interest rates are at a historical high and the profit isn't there and the projects don't pencil out," Peskin said.

"The state mandates are not helping with the number one issue that is most important, which is building housing that our teachers and our nurses and our bus drivers and everyday San Franciscans, our cops, our firefighters can afford to live in," he said.

Katherine Petrin said she is an architectural historian and preservation planner who has been dealing with the City's Planning Department and developers on various projects for many years, and that experience plus her own research has led her to reject the doomsday scenarios about this metropolis.

"The prevailing false narrative begins with the premise that San Francisco has failed. We don't accept that and that's our starting point," Petrin said. "Our housing production record is much better than what the dominant, overly simplistic narrative portrays."

She admits that SF has extraordinarily long timelines compared to other cities for administering "pre- and post-entitlements." Entitlements are issued to approve building construction for a specific use and often involve informing neighborhoods and communities through public hearings and various other city meetings.

"But since 2005, San Francisco has produced over 51,000 new housing units, and of that number, 15,000 are affordable, that's 29% of the total overall production since 2005," Petrin said. "We increased our overall housing stock. We have 414,000 units of housing in San Francisco, from single-family homes to apartments and multi-unit buildings, that we have built over a century, and since 2005 we increased our overall housing stock by 14%.

(L to R) Lori Brooke and Katherine Petrin of Neighborhoods United SF listen to SF Board of Supervisors president and mayoral candidate Aaron Peskin critique SF Mayor London Breed's upzoning plans at St. John's Church on Oct. 10. *Photo by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

"At the same time our population increased by 3.9%."

Between 2018 and 2022 SF built the second-highest number of units in the state per capita after Los Angeles, she said.

"In 2017 the state of California declared a housing crisis, which allows Sacramento to override the state's charter cities' rights to make their own decisions about land use and zoning controls," Petrin said. "Since then, we have seen over 300 housing laws, largely driven by State Sen. Scott Wiener, and this is what these laws do:

"They mandate significant and unattainable increases in housing production. They promote density bonuses, density decontrol and upzoning. And these policies, when taken together, can lead to unpredictable height increases.

"These laws also lack any funding for affordable or necessary infrastructure," she said.

By "streamlining" the process, they also remove some of the checks and balances now in place.

"Projects that take advantage of the state density bonus now require the approval of one person, that's the Planning Director of San Francisco. No longer will the Planning Commission review, that doesn't come into play for state density bonus projects," Petrin said.

"The use of the state density bonus, together with density decontrol, and when combined, these policies allow for developments that can be three times the height of the area's zoning."

She also sees the threat of displacement by removing the checks currently practiced that allow local residents to have a say in what the developers do in the neighborhoods San Francisco citizens live in.

"Public input and citizen discourse is stifled. These laws eliminate neighborhood notification and curtail public input, review processes and appeals processes," she elaborated. "They weaken protections for historic resources. They allow permits to be issued over the counter, with no notification and no public hearing and our voices in our city's planning have been eliminated.

"We used to receive notices the old-fashioned way about neighborhood projects; we'd get a notification. But now, the first notification is when the porta potty shows up next door."

Petrin also claims that the state's demand to build 82,000 units by 2031 does not fit the present reality.

"Information released by the California Department of Finance last week now projects that San Francisco can expect just 26,067 new residents by 2031."

Yet, projecting future population growth is a bit like looking into a crystal ball with a measuring tape in hand. While metrics are important, there are always enough variables at play to distort the overall image.

Other estimates, like a recent AI estimate by Aterio, show the City's population increasing by 38,646 in 2030. Meanwhile the World Population Review projects a population increasing to 969,000 in San Francisco by 2035.

But all these projections come with a big caveat: Because of the pandemic, the 2020 census is highly suspect.

"The mandate to build 82,000 units by 2031 was calculated pre-pandemic, in 2019, and it then estimated a 20% increase in San Francisco's population of over 200,000 new residents, not 26,000 new residents," Petrin said.

Ozzie Rohm of the San Francisco Tenants Union addressed the threat to rent controlled apartments through a process she calls "renoviction."

"The proposal to double, triple height limits along these corridors, it will become more enticing for owners to demolish their properties, to build taller and bigger buildings, than to run a retail business. And that means a loss of affordable rent-controlled units above these stores."

She calls what can happen next "renoviction."

"What's fairly common is that new owners use the excuse of renovation to get rid of tenants rather that going through the eviction process with the Rent Board because it's easier and tenants have little recourse," Rohm said. "They show up with an approved permit and your life, well, I guess you're going to have to leave because you have no other choice."

District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan, an incumbent facing several challengers for her seat on Nov. 5, warned that land speculators are already knocking at the door in anticipation of the new upzoning.

"The speculator Realtors are here. They are looking for ways to sell and buy. They are ready to do that to the Richmond," Chan said. "Today I'm here to say the Richmond is not for sale; San Francisco is not for sale.

"They only see the numbers. They don't see us, the people and our beloved small businesses."

Continued from page 11

Letters to the Editor

in a new way.

When the Upper Great Highway is a park, we can immerse ourselves in the tranquility of the ocean and the beach without the distractions of car traffic.

We believe our community deserves this open space. As hard as we work to provide for our families and pay our bills, we need a place to take a break, so we can clear our minds, breathe fresh air, relax and unwind. A park serves this purpose for our community.

When we go to the Upper Great Highway when it is a park, we see communities connecting and being active together. We love spending time with family at free activities for the public, like live music, tai chi and yoga. The Upper Great Highway is also a space for us to have big celebrations with families and friends, like we've already seen during the Autumn Moon Festival and Halloween.

The Upper Great Highway as a park provides plenty of room for kids to play and for people of all ages to walk or bike by the ocean. We hope that Prop. K will encourage the City to add more benches to the space for seniors like us to sit down when we get tired of walking. We would also love to see more nature on our walks and know the Upper Great Highway Park would benefit from more flowers and plants. After all, it's a great place for us to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Voting yes on Proposition K could bring these changes, creating a beautiful park for all of us. Especially after considering the southern end of the Great Highway will already permanently close due to erosion into the ocean, supporting this proposition is even more sensible.

The opportunity to have a park right next to a beach is rare and special. We want to keep our peaceful oceanside strolls, make room for everyone to take a break from their stressful lives, and have space for children to run and bike around without worrying about cars. Establishing a full-time park will allow everyone to enjoy it whenever they have free time. Overall, the park will benefit all San Franciscans, with Sunset residents especially enjoying convenient access to it. That is why we are voting Yes on K.

Adrianna Zhang and grandparents, Outer Sunset residents

Editor:

When I first heard about the proposal to close the Upper Great Highway permanently to cars, I wasn't quite sure how I felt about it. I was born in the Richmond, and am now raising two young kids in the Sunset. I was all-in for the JFK Promenade, but at first, the Upper Great Highway felt different. The current compromise – a park on weekends, open to cars on weekdays – didn't seem so terrible to me.

But then I learned that if Prop. K doesn't pass, the pilot program that allowed it to be a park on the weekends will expire, meaning it would go back to just being a road. That made me realize the stakes, because losing the Great Highway Park would be a massive loss for the community.

Car-free spaces in the city, including the Upper Great Highway, have made me feel so much more connected to the place that I live. I have come to really value the feeling of ease and presence I get in the spaces where I'm able to let go of the traffic vigilance I carry with me everywhere else, and just be with the people around me. I run into neighbors, my kids find playmates and I see strangers smiling at each other as everyone just enjoys the vibes.

Raising kids in San Francisco, it can sometimes feel like everyone is out to get you. I'm constantly worried about one of my boys getting hit by a car, or whether our elementary school will close. My parents in Marin keep telling me to just leave already, and sometimes I'm tempted.

But when we passed Prop. J to create the JFK Promenade, I realized that occasionally, things get dramatically better overnight. At the time, I joked that I'd leave the city if Prop. J failed, but instead we got a glorious 1.5-mile stretch of park where I can take my boys with no particular agenda, my 6 year old speeding ahead on his bike, my 3 year old getting an impromptu piano lesson from a pair of septuagenarians … this is street life in the best possible way.

Now we have the opportunity to do something similar along our beautiful coast, and I want to do everything I can to make sure we don't pass it up.

Lindsay Meisel

Editor:

Ten or 15 years ago, it would have been inconceivable that a felon who sexually abused a woman could run for president. A person who said that Hitler had some good ideas, that immigrants poison the blood of the country and that the opposing political party is the "enemy within" would have had a snowball's chance in hell of winning. The public would not have tolerated that behavior from a candidate.

Those who remember Trump's presidency fondly must have amnesia about 2020. Everything was closed for most of that year. People could not go to work. They could not send their kids to school. In April 2020, unemployment was 14.7%. A million people died from COVID-19. While

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'Then and Now': 900 Block of Taraval Street

Left: This view looking at the south side of Taraval Street, between 19th and 20th avenues, shows the long-gone businesses: The Parkway Coffee Shop (featuring Meadow Gold Ice Cream), The Different Bakery and the Parkside Theater in 1951. *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.* Right: The former location of the Parkside Theater is now the home of condos and the Stratford School with the blade sign and some art deco features removed. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Continued from page 12

this was happening, Trump told the public, in essence, to ignore it and it would just go away. He joked about injecting bleach.

2020 was an awful year. Not just because of COVID-19, but because of the rioting and division in the country after George Floyd was killed. Trump, in usual fashion, blamed the Democrats and refused to take responsibility for either problem.

Looking forward, he proposes tariffs across the board for imported products – and almost everything is imported these days. If you put a 10% tariff on a $1,000 refrigerator, it becomes an $1,100 refrigerator and you pay the tariff.

There is no reason to vote for this man that is based on reality, facts, or reason. It is pure tribalism, us versus them, our team is better than your team.

A sad time in the history of our country.

Scott Kiddy

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

San Francisco deserves a powerful and dynamic CSU campus.

San Francisco State University (SFSU) is essentially shutting down its first- and second-year writing program. We should all be outraged – and we should demand better.

In the past year, 27 faculty members have been let go, and in the last two years 103 early-writing classes have been slashed. The decision to cut back on writing requirements and raise course caps leaves SFSU and our students ill prepared for the future. Early-year writing programs in college serve many functions. They help students develop strong reading, writing and critical thinking skills that serve them in and out of the classroom and for the rest of their lives.

SFSU has a great writing program full of specially trained instructors who have dedicated their careers to the art of teaching these skills to the complex and wonderful body of students arriving on campus eager to learn and grow. In a large university, these small classes are a rare opportunity to build a learning community, make friends and develop relationships with instructors. This has always been super important, but is even more so in the face of the dramatic reading loss we have seen since the re-opening of schools.

This loss is documented in a November 2023 report by Ebony Walton of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Yes there are problems.

Demographic shifts, partnered with increasing doubts about the value of higher education are leading to shrinking enrollment in many colleges – private and public.

What do you want to do about them?

California is faced with the question: Do we respond to this by contracting our CSU programs, or do we re-think what higher education looks like and decide to invest in our young people by offering robust and innovative approaches that attract them.

The research is clear. College degrees, especially from affordable public colleges, have great returns on investment.

The Public Policy Institute of California verified for us in March of 2023 that in 2021 a worker with a bachelor's degree earned 62% more than one with only a high school diploma. And that figure goes up when you add a graduate degree.

They also build out economies. Educated parents, workers and neighbors have more agency and make more careful choices. This is better for everyone. It is good for the economy and it is good for the community.

Do we want to live in a society that educates and supports learning, or one that shuts it down?

Certainly the current leadership at SFSU has decided to shut things down. Touting a "pivot to a smaller university," SFSU President Lynn Mahoney's vision includes larger classes, massive layoffs and fewer resources. To some of us, this is not only a violation of the University's commitment to social justice, but also a colossal failure of leadership. Instead, SFSU should be built up.

SFSU has so much to offer. We have great nursing, education, business, film, ethnic studies, theater and arts programs. We offer working-class families a chance to give their kids a middle-class profession. We offer more affluent families a chance to give their kids an affordable education in which they interact with people from all over the world, with a wide range of life experiences.

SFSU and SF leadership should be launching joint projects about how to build out SFSU to offer meaningful educational opportunities in this complex period. The possibilities are rich – accelerated BA and MA programs, community collaborations with schools, arts organizations and businesses. There are powerful ways to meet the changing needs of today's youth for those of us committed to the project. We are a dynamic, innovative, creative city full of people from all over the world who came here to build something great. We deserve a state university that serves us better.

Jennifer Beach

Editor:

San Francisco's public schools are in chaos – budget shortfalls, school closures, staffing shortages and frustrated families. The failed school closure rollout, which sparked protests and ultimately led to the superintendent's resignation, is just the latest in a series of crises. We need leadership that can handle the urgent financial crises while focusing on student achievement. I'm running for the Board of Education to bring fiscal responsibility and real solutions to SFUSD.

As a proud SFUSD graduate who grew up in the Richmond and Sunset districts, attending Argonne Elementary, Presidio Middle School and Lowell High, I know what's at stake. Over the past few years, I've worked tirelessly to hold the district accountable, leading efforts to reinstate the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to ensure billions in bond funds are spent effectively. I've worked on the Civil Grand Jury to improve teacher hiring and retention and fought to pass Proposition G, bringing back middle school algebra, so every student has the opportunity to succeed.

From day one, I was involved in the School Board recall effort, gathering hundreds of signatures to demand accountability. I've seen first hand how mismanagement has let our schools fall into crisis, and I'm committed to getting the district's finances in order and restoring trust in the system.

In addition to fiscal responsibility, I will fight for immigrant families by expanding language immersion programs and ensuring that any school closures are handled transparently, with full community involvement. We must restore trust in the system and build schools that serve every family in our diverse city.

We're at a critical moment, and we can't afford more mismanagement. With your vote, I'll bring fiscal discipline, a focus on student achievement, and a commitment to better serve our diverse communities. Let's get SFUSD back on track.

Laurance Lem Lee, candidate for School Board, leeforsfschoolboard.com

Editor:

Prop. K's problem? Voters don't take kindly to being misled.

While losing our common sense in San Francisco is not a new phenomenon, it's definitely at a fever pitch over Prop. K, closing the Upper Great Highway (UGH) to cars. I refuse to call it a park because that's a lie; it's not going to be a park at all, it's just closing the road to vehicles. By the way, not all vehicles, since a road is still legally required for emergency vehicles.

Prop. K supporters would have you believe that the UGH is already closed so often we might as well call it "The Great Ghost\way." They claim it's closed 65 days a year for sand removal, so why not just throw in the towel? Well, funny thing about that – it's simply not true. UGH is almost never closed entirely, and it's nowhere near 65 days. DPW reports that this year it's only been partially closed for 14 days. That's a whopping 80% less than the Prop. K folks claim. Plus, when those closures do happen, DPW doesn't just shut it all down; they keep at least one lane open and plan around rush hours to avoid that UGH-ly traffic nightmare.

Oh, and that $1.6 million they say it costs annually for sand removal? A bit of sandstorming there, too. DPW says it actually costs about $300,000 on average each year – again, 80% less than what Prop. K is trying to sell you. Yes, the cost went up in 2023, but why? All the pedestrians and party-goers having their sand-splattered shindigs on UGH.

Because the traffic on Sunset and 19th Avenue is already atrocious, even with the UGH open, a couple of residents (not most) with fantastic views and a bit too much time on their hands thought to themselves, "Hey! You know what would be even better when I'm sipping my Pinot on my deck? Getting rid of these pesky cars

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Letters to the Editor

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interrupting my view of the vast and glorious ocean!" And just like that, everyone else has to suffer because a handful of people got the bike coalition (many of whom drive to the UGH to bike) and anti-car fanatics on board with closing down a road. A vital road that tens of thousands of people use a week to get to where they need to go. To get to jobs and schools and doctors' appointments. You know, the things that keep a city functioning and vital.

Screw the elderly that need cars to get places, and kids who have to get from school to an activity nowhere near a bus route. That construction worker can carry his air compressor on the bus, if he really wanted to make a difference in the environment! Let them eat cake! I need more than the already existing 15-foot path spanning the entire Great Highway. I need more than the miles of beach I can readily walk on! I need more open green space than the enormity of Golden Gate Park five minutes to my right, I want it all and damnit, I absolutely deserve it.

Let's be clever and package it as a park even though there is zero plan for one, and zero budget for one, and oh yeah, legally the road has to stay open for emergency vehicles so we couldn't recreate Playland at the Beach even if we wanted to. Ooh it costs money to move the sand every month off the road? It still will. And it will be even more expensive according to SFCTA, you know, with benches and flower beds to work around.

There is a Reddit post where a sweet soul asks why folks are against the closure, because to them, living on the east side of the City, it sounds like a nice plan. And that's exactly the plan, make everyone think this is some noble closure for the betterment of society. Down with cars but let's do nothing to make public transportation better. Closing UGH doesn't add a mere five minutes to people's commutes – it will add 1,333,333 hours of additional commute time annually for the 20,000 people per week who currently use UGH. That's a lot of time wasted. (And before we hear about only 14,000 cars on UGH now – use numbers are going up monthly due to more and more people going back to work, and there are usually more than 1 person per car.

By the way, have you been on 19th Avenue or Sunset Boulevard lately anywhere near rush hour? It's a parking lot. This is another land grab for a carriage road for elites. I really feel insane saying this part out loud, but roads are an integral part of city development in order for people to get to and from places. The cost of living is so atrocious already here and now we aren't allowing people who live in or outside of the City and need to commute a road to do that on?

To recap: There is an existing path for walking and biking, there are more than 3.5 miles and 80,000 acres of free space at the beach to walk on, there are over 1,000 acres of open space at Golden Gate Park, and head a bit more south and hit the 33 acres of nature at Stern Grove. Still not enough? We hear you, you can also get your butt over to one of the other eight playgrounds and parks in the neighborhood.

This isn't Times Square in New York, we aren't gasping for air on the west side. In fact, we are abundant in our fresh ocean air and nature.

San Franciscans, please see this for the massive hoodwink that it is; a very few, very entitled people wanting a main thoroughfare closed for their own enjoyment with complete disregard to those who suffer in the wake of it. There is no plan for a park, no money for one either, and they are just messing with us at this point.

Real San Franciscans know when the wool is being pulled over their eyes in the name of "open spaces and progress." Don't trust the catchy marketing and b.s. Vote "no" on K and keep the damn road open to real working people who need it to get around.

Marie Hurabiell, executive director, ConnectedSF

Sweet Rides at Speedway Meadow

It was a warm sunny day on Saturday, Oct. 19, when old car enthusiasts from around the Bay Area gathered in Golden Gate Park for the 36th annual San Francisco Old Car Picnic. The event was founded by retired Golden Gate Park gardener Jimmy O'Keeffe and raises money for charities supporting developmentally disabled people. The event is free for the public but old-car owners (before 1999) pay $40 each to park on the grass at Speedway Meadow and Hellman Hollow for the day. *Photo by Paul Kozakiewicz.*

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Mary Cassatt

Continued from page 1

as a mother coddling her child, or children playing, were common motifs throughout Cassatt's work.

One such example can be found in "Maternal Caress" (1896) which portrays a tender moment between a mother and her infant. This ability to illustrate the beauty of domestic life is ubiquitous in Cassatt's work.

Cassatt appeared to be a natural candidate to be a mother due to the content of her work, but she never bore a child, believing that a family would hinder her career, echoing a modern sentiment. Regardless of her lack of children, her bold depictions of motherly joy and free-spirited toddlers captured the hard but rewarding work of caretaking.

"Cassatt produced images of women's work. By which I mean, knitting and needlepoint, bathing children and nursing infants that also testify to the work of the woman who made them," Beeny said.

Despite being the only American to be exhibited along with the Impressionists, Cassatt's place in art history can be summed up as overlooked. While her French contemporaries such as Edgar Degas and Édouard Manet were highly regarded, Cassatt herself remains an afterthought of the Impressionist movement. A persistent criticism of Cassatt's work is the repetitive nature of her subject matter. But the supposed repetition of Cassatt is not a unique characteristic.

"Regarding her pairs and trios of mother, babies and children, we might do well to remember the endless Mount Sainte-Victoire landscapes of Cézanne and the recurring water lily ponds of Monet," Beeny said.

Though Cassatt's eyesight began to fade after the beginning of the 20th century, she continued to paint until her death.

What Cassatt can be remembered for was that she pushed herself to work, a rare sight in the 19th century.

"What I want is the freedom to work," she wrote to her art dealer, Paul Durand-Ruel in an 1894 letter.

Cassatt's ambition was emblematic of the archetype of the working woman. A colleague of the artist, Eliza Haldeman, remarked that she wanted to "paint better than the old masters." The courage to surpass the well-established masters makes Cassatt a master herself.

"'Mary Cassatt at Work' invites us to consider how the question of work arises in myriad ways throughout the artist's life and era and how that, in turn, allows us to reconsider her art historical legacy," Georgopulos said.

"Mary Cassatt at Work" will be on display at the Legion of Honor through Jan. 26, 2025. The museum is located at 100 34th Ave. Learn more at famsf.org/exhibitions/mary-cassatt.

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"Little Girl in a Blue Armchair," 1877–1878 by Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). Oil on canvas. National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon. ***Image courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.***

"Maternal Caress," 1896 by Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). Oil on canvas. Philadelphia Museum of Art, Bequest of Aaron E. Carpenter, 1970. ***Image courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.***

Artwork on a wall at the "Mary Cassatt at Work" exhibit at the Legion of Honor. ***Photo by Klyde Java.***

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From the Editor

Michael Durand

Great Hauntway

You're holding another hefty issue this month. The October newspaper was 24 pages long – this month's issue is 20 pages. That's 44 pages of content supplied to you by our advertisers, donors and Patreon supporters. Please consider joining the sponsors to help support this neighborhood resource.

Our mission is comprehensive: We share news and feature stories about what's happening in our community, columnists share their thoughts, advertisers let you know about services and products available in our area and we let you know what's coming up each month. Special mention and thanks to cartoonist Paul and Jess the crossword puzzle maker who contibute their creativity.

This month, we are offering many more letters to the editor than usual. (Sorry for all the page jumps!) Since it is election season, I thought I'd give our readers a chance to tell their story and weigh in on current issues. All the letters printed here have been published on our website. Thank you to all who take the time to write.

I have also allowed exceptions to the length of the letters we published this month. Normally we limit the pieces to no more than 350 words in the paper, 500 online. Consider the election season the holiday season for opinions. Time to splurge.

The paper is also bigger because we have some new writers who have come forward and are adding their work to the local newspaper and website. It is important to me to encourage writers and I am so grateful to our talented contributors. Thank you all.

Soon our election season will be over and the contentious issues that have divided our neighborhoods ("Yes" on K! "No" on K!) will be settled for the time being.

While I don't share my point of view about closing or opening the Upper Great Highway, I do admit I like the use of the compromise at Hallowween time to give kids a safe place to have some fun.

I was too busy at deadline to go myself, so I asked Lucas Lux, one of the event's organizers, if he could share some pictures. His reply:

"Thanks for offering to include some photos from this year's fourth annual Great Hauntway in the upcoming Sunset Beacon. Our team can provide photos.

Some fun facts you could include about SF's largest Halloween celebration if you'd like:

- Over one mile of car-free trick-or-treating, when Halloween is the most dangerous day of the year for youth pedestrians.
- Over 130 community-hosted trick-or-treating stations.
- Over half a million pieces of candy handed out.
- Over 10,000 attendees.
- Live music from Carry Nation and the Sunset Community Marching Band.
- Nearly 150 volunteers from the community."

Thank you, Lucas, and thanks to Boone Ashworth and David Enloe for their great pictures!

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Michael Durand is the editor and publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and the RichmondSunsetNews.com website. He can be reached at Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Great Hauntway 2024

Photos by Boone Ashworth.

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Great Hauntway 2024

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San Franciscans are ending support for the re-election of embattled Mayor London Breed.

Under London Breed, residents, businesses and tourists alike experienced:

- **Her defunding $120 million from SFPD, leaving a demoralized and understaffed SFPD and Sheriff's Depts**
- **Retail businesses large and small collapsing, retail cores decimated, thousands of jobs gone**
- **Tourism, convention and hotel industries floundering, barely recovered, tax revenues tanking**
- **Downtown Financial District at record high office vacancies with no viable plans for revival**
- **Failed, multiple crackdowns on drug dealers now roaming freely, preying on addicts 24 hrs. a day**
- **Scandal-ridden and untraceable nonprofit funding which enrich Breed's friends**
- **Insane $16 billion city operating budget we can't afford, which spends taxpayers' money recklessly**
- **Her unlawful race-based initiatives implementing unconstitutional segregation and racial stereotypes**

YOU TOO CAN MAKE A BREEXIT

Do not select London Breed as any of your mayoral choices on your ballot.

Visit breexit.org for more reasons to break up with London Breed

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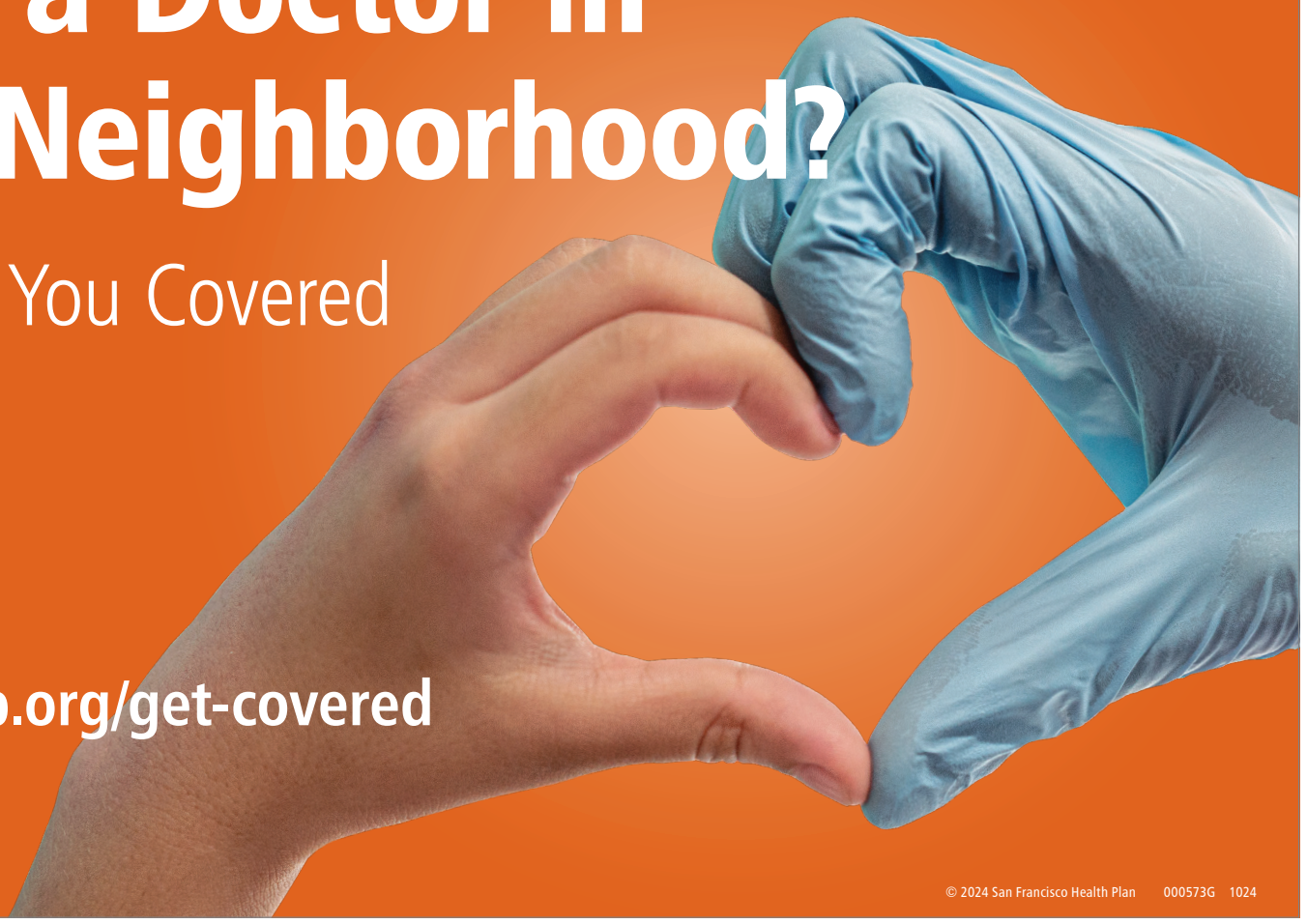

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